THE GLORIOUS CHURCH  
Ephesians 5: 25 - 27

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word "GLORIOUS" means: honored, illustrious, exhibiting attributes, qualities or acts that deserve or receive glory -- Webster
2. The church is to be full of honor, splendor and beauty.
3. The church is to be worthy of the love of the Bridegroom.
4. The church has been sanctified and cleansed with the washing of the water by the Word -- Eph. 5:26
5. The glory of the church consists in its PURITY and CHARACTERISTICS given by God -- Eph. 3: 9 - 11

I. THE CHURCH IS GLORIOUS IN ITS ORIGIN

1. The church was in the mind of God from eternity -- Eph. 3: 9 - 11
2. It was bought with the blood of Christ -- Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25; I Cor. 6: 19 - 20
3. Christ built the church -- Matt. 16:18; Heb. 8:2
4. Christ is the foundation of the church -- I Cor. 3:11; Matt. 16: 16 - 18
5. This glorious church had its beginning on Pentecost in Acts 2:47
6. All other churches (denominations) have been established by men -- Matt. 15:13

II. THE CHURCH IS GLORIOUS IN ITS HEAD -- CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

1. Christ is the Head of the church -- Eph. 1: 22 - 23
2. Christ received His authority from the Father -- Matt. 28:18; John 17:8; I Pet. 3: 22
3. Denominations have men as the head of their respective denominations.
   (1) They receive their authority from men.

III. THE CHURCH IS GLORIOUS IN THAT IT IS GOVERNED BY A GLORIOUS LAW

1. The GOSPEL -- II Cor. 3:11; II Cor. 4:4; I Tim. 1:11
2. It is glorious in its SAVING POWER -- Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16: 15 - 16
3. It is glorious in its SCOPE -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Acts 10: 34 - 35
4. It is glorious in its ENDURANCE -- I Pet. 1: 21 - 25; Matt. 24:35

IV. THE CHURCH IS GLORIOUS IN THAT GOD IS GLORIFIED IN THE CHURCH

1. Eph. 3:21; I Pet. 2:9
2. God is glorified in the church when the authority of Christ and His Word is upheld -- Matt. 28:18; John 12:48; I Cor. 4:6
3. God is glorified when the gospel message is faithfully proclaimed -- II Tim. 4:2; Acts 20:20; 20: 26 - 27
4. God is glorified in the church when it worships:
   (1) When we sing -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
(2) When we pray -- Acts 2:42; Lk. 18:1  
(3) When we eat the Lord’s Supper -- I Cor. 11: 23 - 24  
(4) When we give -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2; II Cor. 9: 6 - 7  
(5) When we teach -- Acts 2: 42; 20:7  

5. God is glorified in the church when members are zealous about serving the Lord and are ready unto every good work -- Tit. 2:14; 3:1; I Pet. 3:15  
   (1) FRUITLESS branches do not glorify God -- John 15:8  
   (2) UNPROFITABLE servants do not glorify God -- Matt. 25:30  
   (3) LUKEWARMNESS robs the church of its ability to glorify God -- Rev. 3:16  

6. God is glorified in the church when each member gives proof of his love for God and one another -- John 14: 15; John 13: 34 - 35  

V. THE CHURCH IS GLORIOUS IN HER MISSION UPON THE EARTH  

1. The glorious church, the body of Christ, has the same mission Christ had when He came into the world -- Lk. 19:10; Matt. 1: 21  

2. Its mission is to proclaim Christ’s Gospel to lost men -- Mark 16: 15 - 16; Matt. 28:19 - 20; I Tim. 3:15; Acts 8:4  

3. Its mission is to teach and train the saved that their conduct, character, and service will glorify God -- Matt. 28:20; II Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4: 11 - 12  

4. The concern of the church is not the social well-being of people, or the entertainment of people.  

VI. THE CHURCH IS GLORIOUS IN ITS DESTINY  

1. In the end, the church, or kingdom, will be delivered up to God -- I Cor. 15:24  

2. In heaven the church will forever be with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit -- John 14:1 - 6  

3. All churches that have been built by men will be destroyed -- Matt. 15:13 

CONCLUSION:  

1. Are you a member of the glorious church of our Lord?  

2. Won’t you obey the gospel now?

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